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Act One: The Floating Prison of Stone



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Chapter 1 by Story Wars

Standing in the town square, Sans didn't want to believe that this was real. It had to be an elaborate prank, an insensitive joke, since there was no reason that the genius game developer, Akihiko Kayaba, would want to trap 10,000 nerdy gamers in an unending, potentially fatal nightmare. Sword Art Online was the first Virtual MMO game, but it was not something you played. If you died in the game, you were killed in real life. It was a Death Game.

And it was real, all right. Before long the square was filled with chaos. People screamed in disbelief, while others broke down crying. The smart ones left hastily to monopolize the resources in the fields.

Sans just stood there, doing nothing. He had played this game just to escape from boredom. He had no desire to die fighting in a digital world, never to see his parent or his friends ever again. He wanted to leave. He wanted to go back to his tiny apartment.

He just stood there. Paralyzed. Tears rolled down his cheeks as the absurdity of the situation hit him. He was never to go home, never to smile as his parents bid him good night, never to eat the delicious noodles that his mother made. He was just going to sit there and die.

Little did Sans know, in two years he would be a hero. And he would go home as one of the heroes of the Floating Castle. And he would go home as one of the heroes of the Floating Castle. And he would go home as one of the heroes of the Floating Castle.

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Chapter 2 by Phantom



Sans knew he had been too late to go out and clear the low level zones, but he also knew that eventually the other players would move on to higher level dungeons and all the creatures would respawn. All he had to do was wait... No, he realized he had to do something to better himself. But what? He looked through his inventory to see what he had...

"Let's see," he said to himself " Map... boar tusk... gloves... silverthorn... potion... hmmm, that's it!"

He was going to level up potion making. He knew there was a trainer nearby in the town, after checking his virtual map of the city he knew where to go. Aincrad was a strange fantasy game, because despite beasts, castles, and epic sword play... the game had no magic! Potions were the closest thing you could get.

He spent three days making potions, keeping busy also kept his mind off many of the troubling questions he had like... what was happening to his real body? Finally he decided enough time had passed to venture out into the world of Aincrad. He knew his life was on the line, but he wasn't a total noob. He had played other MMO games before: Warcraft, Guild Wars, Tera, Final Fantasy Online... he should be safe enough in the low level areas as long as he didn't run into any boss fights.

"Well, here goes." Sans said to himself as he walked out the gates.

"Wait!" he hears a girl's voice call out from behind him.

Chapter 3 by LethalPianist



"Are you leaving the town?" The girl said. Sans checked her cursor. It was floating above her and shined bright green, the sign of a friendly player.

"Yes, after all, I can't just stay here, can I?" Sans replied, a little surprised at the question.

"But you'll die out there! It's dangerous!" The girl protested. "People already have died!" She began crying. "My brother...he...he j-jumped off of the edge of the map..." The girl broke down in

the middle of the street, screams intermingling with the noises of the town at beginnings

Aw crap. Why does Sans have to... the girl to comfort her, but thought better of it after... with using words

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"I'm sorry about your brother." Sans started with a soothing tone. "But you have to think about the future. You can't stay here forever." The girl sniffled. Sans made a decision.

I'm going to regret this, he thought. "Y'know, if you want, I can party with you and help you along on this floor." The girl looked at him with her tear-stained face. "The first floor is easy, so I'll help you get strong enough that you can get col for yourself and not die."

"R-really?" The girl said, looking hopeful.

"Sure. I'll protect you on this floor. Any further and I can't make any promises." Sans confirmed. The girl cracked a smile. Sans sent her a party request, which she accepted immediately. Sans looked at his top left. The girl's name was Lina.

"Alright, so let's go hunting!" Sans said cheerfully.

"I-I d-don't have a-any gear..." The girl muttered timidly.

Sans stared at her in disbelief.

Chapter 4 by XOXkitkatXOX



"Oh... I'll send you some then." he said.

"No, you shouldn't, but maybe, you could also send me some potions? I see you're a potion maker!" she exclaimed.

He nodded, then went to his menu. He chose her name, and gifted her with some hunting gear and potions.

She jumped when the ding went off that means you just got gifted. She walked over, and gave him a hug.

He shoved her off. "Remember the harassment code?" he hissed at her sharply.

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She caught on fast, often coming to her daily training showing Sans something she learned from another friend. After a while, Sans and Lina became the only two players on the first floor.

Either everyone died, or they moved on. They didn't want to move on, because they knew that the bosses respawned, and it was too late to move up floors. They knew that they needed more than two people to defeat even the first boss.

Eventually, one day, Akihiko Kayaba visited them, and invited them to the next floor, and he said that if they wanted, he could disable the bosses long enough for them to catch up with the rest of the group.

Sans was in so much shock, that he declined his offering, and started to think of this new life as his only life. He forgot about his family, about his mom, and little sister, Lily. And don't forget, well, in this case he did forget, their dog Samuel.

Eventually, Lina and Sans fell for each other, and made love every night, even though there was no feeling because it was a damned game. They vowed that if they ever made it out of the game to meet up and make love for real. One night, after making love, Sans woke up to the sound of screams.

He looked over to where Lina was, and she was fine. Sans was so tired, he decided that it was nothing and fell back to sleep. The next morning, he woke up to find that he was with a group of people. Of course he was with a group of people, he was with them all along. And who's Lina! She must've been a figment of his imagination.

Though something told him that she wasn't.

Chapter 5 by intellikat



The disorientation lasted for Sans about four days-- at least that's what the doctor said as he stood beside the hospital bed. Behind the doctor, Sans could see his mother, father, and his sister watching anxiously through the glass window

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The doctor extended a hand.

"Congratulations, Sans. You're one of the few hundred to have survived Sword Art Online's first iteration. The data you've provided has been invaluable for the development of this kind of simulation. And I imagine the prize money deposited into your account will be some satisfaction as well."

He lifted a clipboard with a number of printed pages and a ballpoint pen.

"Everything has been paid for by Kayaba Studios. If you will just sign here, we'll process your discharge and get you home to your family. Your mother says she's looking forward to cooking your favorite noodles," he added.

Sans looked at his mother through the window and saw her smile and wave.

The ride home was uneventful. Sans' parents were giving him space as the doctor had instructed, but Lily couldn't stop talking.

"You're on the news, you know! You're famous!"

Sans smiled weakly and watched the city pass before his eyes. He was dreaming of boar, and of chopping wood, potions, streams, leather bags of coins... and... what was it? Something on the tip of his mind that seemed to dance away the more he tried to recall what it was. Something he had done? Someone he had met? He could not remember, but every time he attempted to conjure the memory licking at the edge of his consciousness, feelings of warmth rose. The memory that eluded him was good-- it must be. And yet it was elusive still. By the time he was seated at the dinner table eating his mother's noodles, the memory was completely gone. SO much so there was nothing left to even chase.

It was almost six months later to the day when Sans opened his email and read the official release newsletter from Kayaba Studios.

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Sans leaned back in his desk chair and watched the screen flicker before him.

Chapter 6 by marsh123321



Sans eyes had been staring at his computer screen for hours, he had been fixed on the join now button. and wondering if he should press it or not. he had about 10 hours to press it. he was thinking about something, something he knew about but he didn't as well, then he saw the face of someone, sans knew this someone so well, but still he didn't know who she was. he was wondering if he pressed the join now button he could find this person. so he lent down and put his finger on the mouse and then his mother called him, so he got up and left the room with the email still on.

when he got down stairs his mother had the phone in her hand, "it's for you dear" San's mother said the phone call was from Kayaba Studios. it was to tell him about the floating prison of stone and gave more information about the game, he said the game was going to be the sequel to Sword Art Online and all the characters and places and in it as well as new ones too. once Sans had gotten off the phone with Kayaba Studios his mother asked him is he going to join them at that point thousands of thoughts had raced through his mind. but he told his mother that he will.

Sans has raced up stairs and was just about to press the mouse and then his father a in the doorway he said that he was going back in he had to stay safe and that if he died he would know that he went out with a fight. so then his dad got up and watched his son press the join now button. then a swirl had started on his computer screen, a swirl would transport Sans in to floating prison of stone.

Chapter 7 by Emanuel



Floating prison of stone. A true prison. True isolation. Then suddenly, there were a whirring sound. Sans turned backwards, to find a giant blade coming at him from the other side of the FPOS (Floating Prison of Stone). He didn't quite know what got over him, but he dodged it very

quickly leaving the blade hit the other side of the prison.

Then an AI voice sounded, "Close" See more of Story Wars

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"Hm," Sans thought to himself, *So they've added new classes this time. I'm a shadowweaver... what is that?*

Sans made a jolting realization about his surroundings, noticing them for the first time. He was floating in mid-air, facing the FPOS, which appeared as an enormous egg-shaped structure in orbit above a blue, cloudy earth. Before he could ask himself why, a large set of words materialized in front of him that read: Sword Art Online II: The Floating Prison of Stone.

Sans chuckled to himself, "Of course! This is the title screen."

He was about to lean over and press the word "START" that was hovering in front of him, when another image appeared next to the title.

It was a larger than life portrait of a girl wearing exquisite robes. Her face. The moment Sans laid eyes on it, a thousand feelings came rushing back to him. A thousand memories. His heart was beating so hard, it felt as though it was going to come out of his chest.

"L..." the name was perched on the edge of his tongue. "Lina." He remembered everything. The glowing "START" button continued to blink endlessly in front of him.

~

"Have you seen a girl with white hair, class 03 archer?" Sans repeatedly shouted to anyone within sight.

"Um, I don't know! What's your problem?" A man with a samurai sword said before shrugging and walking off. Everyone was intent on leveling up and getting to the next floor of the stone prison. Sans bent over, distraught. *How could I have forgotten about her? And what the heck was she doing on the title screen anyways?*

"Hey you!" Sans shouted to a girl with cat ears that was meandering nearby. Her feline ears twitched as she made eye-contact. She was a Felidae, class 10 Tigress with a bowstaff. "Have you seen a white-haired girl dressed in royal robes. She's a class 03---"

"Wait," the girl cut him off, "Aren't you talking about Liniana, the King's daughter. Of course I haven't seen her! No one has gotten to the 100th floor and beaten the last boss yet. Don't you read the forums?"

Sans stared in disbelief. "Liniana..."

"Wow!" The cat girl shook her head. "Liniana is the main goal of this game, and I only saw the trailer."

Sans continued to stand there, stunned. He had to fight monsters. The guy leaned back against the stone walls of the labyrinthine prison. They were cold.

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"Sans," a friendly voice came out of nowhere.

The young man jumped to his feet and beheld the sight of the game's creator.

"Mr. Kayaba..."

"Is everything all right?" The middle-aged man, who was dressed in a collared shirt, asked. "I must confess that the mission featured in this game was very much inspired by your performance in the previous Sword Art game."

Sans felt even more confused, "What are you talking about?"

"You see," Kayaba continued, "The Story Team and I were so enthralled by the way you connected with the CPU one of my associates created, that we decided to make her a main part of this next installment. We took your beloved Lina, and changed her into Liniana, the hostage that the player must face insurmountable odds to rescue. She comes from the kingdom of---"

"Stop." Sans held up a hand. A cold sweat began to pour down his forehead. "Did you just tell me that Lina was... an AI? Artificial Intelligence. As in, she's not real?"

A look of bewilderment went across Kayaba's face, "Oh Sans... but I thought you knew, when you discovered she had no equipment, and clones of her could be found throughout the town in Level 1..."

But Sans wasn't listening. He was only remembering the way she always cooked a veal the exact same way every time. The times he made fun of Lina for repeating herself word for word. The way she never got sick of the dress that she wore since the first time they met. How he felt nothing but air every time they locked their lips to kiss.

Sans ran, with Kayaba still babbling on.

~

Sans made it to Level 100. He had slain the Ragnarock. There, behind the last door, was a chamber filled with light from tall windows that looked out over the blue world. The young man, who was now level 5023 Shadowweaver, class Silentwalker, had beat the game. He had only to unlock the cage that held...

"Lina?" Sans said to the girl that was held in place by iron shackles.

The girl with white hair, and the face he had come to know so well lifted her head. A look of

familiarity flooded her face.

"Sans!" She said joyfully.

"I'm so sorry for leaving you behind," he said, his hand, the terrible knowledge circling around her.

"Are you a real person?" Sans spoke quietly. Lina furrowed her brow.

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"Of course I'm a real person. You can see and touch me, can't you?"

"But are you real? I mean... are you a part of the game?"

Lina pursed her lips.

Sans looked on, wide-eyed, "But you said you would look for me if we ever made it out of the game."

The girl leaned her head of white hair over, the shackles pressing against her pale skin, "I said that because...I didn't want to break your heart. I'm sorry... I..."

"That's okay," Sans said, whipping the key out, "I love you so much. I'd rather be here with you than go out there and live in the boring real world. Let's just hide somewhere around here, find a glitch area that the game creators don't know about, and stay there forever."

"Wait," the girl cried out, "If you unlock me, the game will---"

It was too late. Sans turned the key, and had only just a moment to stare into Lina's eyes before all turned to black. The game ended.

He was sitting at his desk. He was back in his room. He was just regular old Sans again. And that was that.

the end

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